



## City of Annapolis

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### Annapolis Environmental Commission

June 15, 2011

The regular meeting of the Environmental Commission of the City of Annapolis was held on June 15, 2011 at the 145 Gorman Street. Chair Pogell called the meeting to order at 7:30p.m.

**Present:** Chair Pogell, Co-Vice Chair DeLuca, Rinaldi, Weber, Kissel, Rachfal

**Absent:** Haas

**Staff:** Beard-Board Liaison

#### II. May 18, 2011

The May 18, 2011 meeting minutes were approved as submitted. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

#### III. Regular Business Before the Commission

##### Outreach

##### a. AEC Newsletter

Ms. Rachfal has prepared the newsletter template but has not finalized it because additional information on the seven items is needed.

##### b. Water and Sewer Fees Public Hearing – June 13, 2011

Chair Pogell attended the June 13, 2011 Water and Sewer Fees public meeting and testified in support of the 50% credit for residents practicing stormwater management on their property. She reported that the fees will be voted on at the June 20, 2011 hearing.

##### c. June 18, 2011 Tri-It Festival at Truxtun Park

Ms. Rachfal agreed to participate in the Tri-It Festival sponsored by the Recreation and Parks Department.

##### Action Items

##### a. Eco-Center

Chair Pogell reported that a Not-for Profit booth is included in the ordinance passed by the Council for the temporary occupation of the Market House. Also, vendors have been provided applications for consideration. She noted that Lily Openshaw is overseeing the Market House project and would be happy for the AEC to assist with reviewing the vendor applications. Ms. Beard added that the applicants for the Market House have been provided a checklist to use to ensure that requirements are met.

##### b. Grant Writing

Chair Pogell reported that the AEC has been not met with the City in order to get grant writing projects moving forward.

**c. Recycling Education Campaign**

Ms. Rinaldi announced that there are twelve recycling bin scheduled to be placed down town.

**d. Stormwater Eastport Watershed Alliance**

Chair Pogell clarified that the Eastport Watershed Alliance Stormwater is a grant initiative between the City and AEC that was denied by the Chesapeake Bay Trust. However, Mr. Wilkins resubmitted the grant to the National Fish and Wildlife Federation and a response is expected by the middle of July.

**e. Annapolis Neck Proposed Development Visit**

This agenda item was deferred to the July 20, 2011 meeting.

**f. Crystal Spring Farm LLC Development Proposal**

Chair Pogell explained that the Commission should plan to meet with the Mayor to discuss the Katherine Property and Reserve at Quiet Waters. Mr. Weber added that the site plan did not change noticeably in response to the AEC comments. He agreed to prepare a response to the Developer letter with a carbon copy to Planning and Zoning and the Mayor for review. The letter will also request a meeting to go over the AEC's concerns. A copy of the letter will also be sent to the City Council members. Chair Pogell encouraged members to attend the July 7, 2011 meeting in order to testify.

**g. Reserve at Quiet Waters**

Ms. Beard updated the Commission on the status of the Reserve at Quiet Waters project explaining that Staff met with MDE, the Developer and their Environmental Consultant to review some potential wetlands issues. She noted that MDE ruled that there was no bog on the property. In order for a wetlands area to be considered a bog it must be saturated with water year round and there was evidence that this area remains dry during the summer months. Despite this, MDE believes that the wetlands are relatively pristine for Anne Arundel County. MDE further believes that if stormwater runoff flow increases these pristine wetlands, the existing vegetation will not survive. This will result in a change to the characteristics of these wetlands. Staff agreed to ensure that the ephemeral channels leading from the wetlands into Quiet Waters is placed on the site design maps and is accounted for in the stormwater management design. Staff agreed to monitor this project and keep the Commission abreast of the status. The public hearing for this project is scheduled before the Planning commission on July 7, 2011.

Mr. Kissel reviewed the Sustainability Plan for the Reserve at Quiet Waters and noted items that are relevant to the project that was provided to the Commission for review. Mr. Weber, Mr. Kissel and Chair Pogell agreed to work on this issue collaboratively.

**DNEP**

**a. AEC Business Card**

This agenda item was deferred to the July 20, 2011 meeting.

**b. Submission of AEC Expenses Invoices**

This agenda item was deferred to the July 20, 2011 meeting.

**c. Budget**

This agenda item was deferred to the July 20, 2011 meeting.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. City Council Environmental Matters Committee**

Chair Pogell reported that the Environmental Matters Committee meeting is scheduled for the second Thursday of each month. She noted that the agenda is usually posted online several days

prior to the meeting and the June 16, 2011 agenda includes the water and water sewer fee. She encouraged those members who can attend the meeting to do so.

**b. Lease for Annapolis Boat Shows - Recycling**

Ms. Pogell noted that the Annapolis Boat Show will be installing recycling bins this year. Ms. Rinaldi agreed to prepare a letter to the United States Boat Show thanking them for their participation in the recycling program. Ms. Rachfal was asked to note this in the AEC newsletter.

Chair Pogell asked to be notified if there is any additional news or happenings on the rain barrel and compost bin sales. She also believes that the Commission's participation in the recycling education campaign was successful.

**Rain Barrels – Best Management Practice**

Ms. Beard responded to a question regarding what qualifies as a best management practice (BMP) indicating that rain barrels are currently not on the list but Mr. Biba is working with the State to have it included. However, the list includes infiltration trenches, rain gardens, pervious surfaces, and green roofs. She has been working on a checklist for residential and commercial residences that are exempt that she will provide once it is finalized. The City is hoping to have the AEC, the Riverkeeper and other Federations visit those residences approved for the 50% reduction to verify that the BMP's are in good working order.

**Community Wildlife Habitat Certification**

Ms. Beard reported that staff is in the process of having the City certified as a Community Wildlife Habitat with the National Wildlife Federation.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Circulating AEC Survey to Neighborhood Associations**

The Commission agreed to use the same survey as it used at the Eastport-A-Rockin event. Ms. Rinaldi indicated that the questionnaire from this survey resulted in several possible members for the AEC. It also revealed the need for more biking in Annapolis. Ms. Rachfal suggested including the questionnaire in the newsletter.

**b. Clean, Safe and Green – Main Street Annapolis/Downtown Annapolis**

Chair Pogell noted that there is a section in the Clean Safe and Green article that indicates that the Environment will play a large role in the City's image to its visitors and residents.

**c. Monitoring Stations**

Mr. Kissel noted that the Eastport Civic Association (ECA) has installed water monitoring stations at Spa Creek, Horn Point and Back Creek. These stations will be monitored for a year and the data will be posted on the ECA website for review and comment. Ms. Rachfal was asked to include this in the newsletter.

**Adjournment**

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm.

Tami Hook, Recorder